Privatisation of Telecom Facilities

1252. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise the provision of basic telephone facilities in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the broad procedure to be followed in awarding the necessary licences;

(c) whether this proposal also involves allowing private companies, Railways, the Power Grid Corporation of India or any other agency to provide long distance, inter-city and inter-State telecom facilities and services; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are already allowing or propose to allow private companies to provide international telecom facilities and services in competition with the Videsh Sanchar Nigam; if so what are the details in this regard;

(e) whether Government propose to set up an independent regulatory body for Telecoms to deal with allocation of radio frequency, telephone numbers and licences to provide services and ensure inter-connection of different networks and protection of customer interest; and

(f) if so, what are the necessary details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, Indian companies are allowed to supplement the efforts of DOT in providing basic telephone services.

(b) Tender have been floated inviting bids from registered Indian companies to provide basic telephone services in the country to meet the objectives of New Telecom. Policy 1994. The last date of submission of the tenders is 30th March, 1995. The tender document containing the detailed conditions, information and procedure for the tender are available on sale for Rs. one lakh and can be purchased upto 29th March, 1995.

(c) No, Sir. There long distance systems are meant only for their own use.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) The Government propose to set up an autonomous Telecom Regulatory Authority Body for ensuring fair competition and to protect consumer interest. Other responsibilities proposed to be given to this Body will include price regulation, technical compatibility and revenue sharing arrangement between different service providers, resolution of disputes between service providers, matters relating to quality of service and protection of customer interest.

Credit Cards for Postal Account Holders

1253. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a credit card system to postal account holders; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have negotiated with other Government agencies such as Railways or Electricity Boards to accept the postal credit cards; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have plans to introduce other schemes, besides distribution of mail, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) At present no such proposal is under the consideration of the Department of Post for introducing credit cards system for postal account holders.

(c) No, Sir.

Infringement of copyright in preparing the commemorative stamp

1254. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations that in preparing the commemorative stamp in the honour of Shri Satyajit Ray, a photograph has been made use of without authorisation from the copyright owner;

(b) if so, what arrangements Government propose to make to settle the issue; and

(c) whether similar complaints of infringement of copyright had been made in the matter of issue of other commemorative stamp?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representation was examined, but found unsustainable.

(c) Yes, Sir. There was one other complaint also.

दिल्ली के यमुनापार क्षेत्रों में खराब टेलीफोन सेवायें

1255. **श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल :**
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली के यमुनापार क्षेत्रो मे टेलीफोन एक्सचेंजों की संख्या कितनी है और प्रत्येक एक्सचेज के उपभोक्ताओं की टेलीफोन सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने की क्षमता क्या है एवं क्षमता के अनुपात में प्रत्येक एक्सचेंज द्वारा अब तक कितने उपभोक्ताओं को टेलीफोन सुविधा उपलब्ध करा दी गई है ;

(ख) यमुनापार क्षेत्रों में कितने टेलीफोन उपभोक्ता हैं और उपभोक्ताओं के टेलीफोनों की देख-रेख के लिये कितने कर्मचारी हैं और उनके पदनाम क्या-क्या हैं ;

(ग) यमुनापार के प्रत्येक टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज में खराब/बंद पड़े टेलीफोनों की संख्या कितनी है और उन्हें ठीक करने के लिये प्रतिदिन एक्सचेजेंज में कितनी शिकायतें आती हैं और उनमें से कितनी शिकायतों को प्रतिदिन दूर किया जाता है ;

(घ) क्या 1991 में तत्कालीन संचार मंत्री ने उपभोक्ताओं की सुविधा के लिये कोई नियम बनाया था, यदि हां, तो वह नियम क्या है और क्या अधिकारियों द्वारा उस नियम का पालन किया जाता है; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार टेलीफोन विभाग में व्याप्त कुप्रबंध को दूर कर टेलीफोन सेवा को चुस्त बनाने, उपभोक्ताओं को बेहतर टेलीफोन सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने तथा उनको विभाग की परेशानी से बचाने सहित बन्द पड़े सार्वजनिक टेलीफोनों को ठीक कर उनके सुचारू रूप से कार्य करने आदि की दिशा में जिससे कि इन सेवाओं मे सुधार आ सके, कोई कदम उठाने पर विचार कर रही है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?